THE RAMTOP

MARCH 1987

PUBLISHED BY THE
GREATER CLEVELAND SINCLAIR USERS GROUP

WEST SIDE GROUP MEETS AT LAKEWOOD PUBLIC LIBRARY
15425 DETROIT AVE. LAKEWOOD OHIO 7:00 P.M.
EVERY THIRD FRIDAY EACH MONTH
CONTACT: DICK SIEG (216) 433-4387

EAST SIDE GROUP MEETS AT THE EUCLID SQUARE MALL
IN THE EUCLIDIAN ROOM 7:30 P.M.
EVERY FIRST FRIDAY EACH MONTH
CONTACT: MAX SCHOENFELD (216) 371-1096

A short note to our friends from other newsletters and magazines. You are welcome to use any of our material, news, adds, or programs if YOU: (1) Tell where it came from (RAMTOP Cleveland, Ohio) and (2) The author's name that wrote the article. We would appreciate it if you would send us a copy of the newsletter that it appeared in! Unless otherwise notified we will do the same.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR INTEREST IN OUR NEWSLETTER !

THE TSU-BBS IS ALIVE

SYSOP:Chris Raynak PHONE:216-327-1099 PARAMETERS:7/1/0

A PREVIEW OF

THE

Z 88

In February, USA TODAY, ran a short news release about Sir Clive's latest product, the Z88. This is a lap size portable PC, similiar in concept to the Tandy Model 100. The reported details were that it weighed less than two pounds, was approximately 11-1/2" x 8-1/4", IBM compatible and will be on sale for $350 via mail order in April....well that report is not entirely accurate.

The March issue of "Personal Computer World", a british mag similiar to "Byte" printed a preview review by Guy Kewney. I have respected this magazine for it's tell it like it really is style, and Kewney's article lives up to this tradition. Rons report was written in January, after viewing a mock up of the proposed product. Here are the details that he observed:

- The machine will have a Z80 CPU, with 128K of ROM for its operating system and resident programs. User RAM is 32K, but expandable.

- The display is made by Epson, a high contrast, 8 line by 100 column liquid crystal unit, reported to be very easy to read under "normal" light.

The working text width is 80 columns, in a central window. On the left is a menu window of 106 characters. On the right is a pixel map of a 64 line page. To the far right is a window showing machine status.

- The keyboard is to be standard querty style slightly reduced to fit the machines size The actual keyboard was not available for the authors review only a wood model.

- Below the spacebar, there are to be slots for insertion of mini ROM/RAM cartridges, which are to be the machines program storage and memory expansion devices. No disk or microdrives.

- Also around the perimeter is an expansion bus and RS 232 port, the only link for a modem or printer.

TIMEX/SINCLAIR NEWS & RESOURCES

news/rumors
hardware software literature

March 1987 by Andy Kosiorek

The Z88 --continued...

SOFTWARE:

The resident software is to include BBC Basic, a calander/ dairy - database, a calculator, and a combined wordprocessor-spreadsheet similiar to Lotus 1-2-3, and a utility called PC Link.

The user may switch between programs at will, and return to a previous program, and continue were you he left off.

POWER:

The power source is four AA batteries, claimed to provide 20 hours of operation. The machine is to maintain its memory while you replace its batteries. ???

COMPATABILITY

If this machine is built around a Z80, a 8-bit system, then compatability with IBM or any of the other 16-bit systems seems highly unlikely. Maybe someone will offer a aftermarket ZX81 ROM Basic operating system for it. The rights to the ZX81 and Spectrum OS are under Amstrad's and Timex's control..

Availability...

Sinclair's new company, Cambridge Computers, is to start taking mail orders in April, with delivery in ??????????. So It's unlikely anyone will have a demo model at the May Indy T/S Computer Fest.

THE 1987 TIMEX/SINCLAIR COMPUTER FEST, MAY 2 & 3rd, Indianapolis.

If you can make it to this Fest for even one day, I urge you to attend. Some vendors have booked large spaces, and may be selling off their remaining T/S inventory.

There is a movement by a small but vocal group to move the Fest to the west coast in 1988. This I believe would hurt the Fest's chances for continued strong support and survival.

__QoLumn__

by Gabe Schaffer

Hello. This month, we'll look at a few ways to adjust the program from last month's column (QLDRAW1.4) along with a lot of other TIPS. By the way, is anyone out there (reading this column?) If so, please either tell me at the meeting or write to the usual address:

Gabe Schaffer
2599 Saybrook Rd.
Univ. Hts., OH 44118

TIPS

To switch from TV mode to monitor mode, type

```
POKE 163890,0:NEW
```

To switch from monitor mode to TV mode, type

```
POKE 163890,127:NEW
```

To switch into CAPS LOCK mode (reversible by pressing CAPS LOCK), type

```
POKE_W 163976,65535
```

To switch into CAPS LOCK mode which is only reversible by typing the above POKE and CAPS LOCK, type

```
POKE_W 163976,256
```

NOTE: On rare occasions, the system variables move around, making the above statements inaccurate

To stop any motion on the screen, type CTRL and F5 at the same time. To start the screen moving again, press any key.

If you want the SGN function (returns 1, 0, or -1 for positive, zero or negative argument), add this at the beginning of your program:

```
DEFine FuNction sgn(sn):IF sn<0:RETurn -1:ELSE
RETurn NOT (NOT sn):END DEFine
```

The equivalent of LEFT$(string$,length) on the QL is

```
string$(1 TO length)
```

The equivalent of MID$(string$,start,length) on the QL is

```
string$(start TO start+length)
```

The equivalent of RIGHT$(string$,length) on the QL is

```
string$(LEN(string$)-length TO)
```

In you have typed in last month's program, QLDRAW 1.4 (and run it), you have probably noticed the drawing screen was large for a TV, and quite small for a monitor. Here are some ways to correct the problem:

Line 420 is where the size of the windows are defined. In the OPEN statement, the values after the *con_* are *length horizontally* x *length vertically* a *amount of pixels from left side of screen* x *amount of pixels from top of screen*. In the WINDOW statement, the parameters are the same as the OPEN statement.

To make the screen 'skinnier', make *length horizontally* smaller. To center it again, you will have to make *amount of pixels from left side of screen* larger. In lines 200 and 210, change the 478 to the current *length horizontally* minus four (4).

To make the screen 'taller', make *length vertically* larger. Next, make the *amount of pixels from top of screen* in the WINDOW statement the same as *length vertically* in the OPEN statement. Finally, in lines 140 and 150, make the 160 to the current *length horizontally* minus two (2).

To detect the ENTER key with INKEY$, use

```
INKEY$=CHR$(10)
```

To convert from fahrenheit to celsius, use

```
DEFine FuNction cel(fa):RETurn (n-32)*5/9:END
DEFine
```

To convert from celsius to fahrenheit, use

```
DEFine FuNction far(ce):RETurn n*9/5+32:END DEFine
```

Do not CLOSE #0 because if you OPEN it again, you will not be able to EDIT. If you want to change the shape/position of #0 use the WINDOW command.

Please note:
We have NOT forgoten about you 2068ers or 1000/1500 fans! I just happen to get a lot on the QL this month. Next month there will be more for 2068. JGD

```
oot file:
90 REMark These programs are designed for TV mode
.0 MODE 80
20 INK  7:PAPER 0:BORDER 0
30 CLS
40 PRINT 'Quick Copy Utility Tape #1 By CTR Software Productions'
50 PRINT\\'This program is intended for making backup copies of your vital'\'software.  It has been donated to the public in a 'Freewa
' format.'
60 PRINT 'If you find this program useful, and wish to see more such programs'
70 PRINT 'or receive updates send a donatation to the address below.'
80 PRINT 'This will put you on  my mailing list for these updates.  Thank you!'
90 PRINT\\'     Chris Raynak'
00 PRINT  '     5705 Lear Nagle Rd.'
10 PRINT  '     N.Ridgeville, OH 44039'
20 PRINT\\\'PRESS ANY KEY TO CONTINUE'
30 IF INKEY$="" THEN GO TO 230
40 CLS
50 PRINT'1) Qcopy 1.0 -You can enter the volume name of drive two.'
60 PRINT\'2) Qcopy 1.1 -The tape you are copying from has a scratch file written  to it, for direct copy of the volume name.'
.0 PRINT\'3) Qcopy 1.15 -The tape you are copying from has a scratch file written  to it, and you are give a directory of tape 2.'
80 PRINT\'4) Qcopy 1.2 -You are asked for a new volume name.  No scratch file is  written to the ORIGINAL in drive 1.  You are then g
en a directory'
50 PRINT\\\\'Please note all transfers require the ORIGINAL to be in MDV1, and a  BLANK or NON-FORMATED tape in MDV2.'
60 PRINT 'Your selection?(1 to 4)=)';
.0 INPUT a
20 IF a=1 THEN LRUN mdv1_qcopy1
30 IF a=2 THEN LRUN mdv1_qcopy1_1
40 IF a=3 THEN LRUN mdv1_qcopy1_15
50 IF a=4 THEN LRUN mdv1_qcopy1_2
60 GO TO 300


 OPY 1
00 MODE 80:PAPER 0:INK 7:CLS
.0  AT 10,11:PRINT 'Microdrive Quick Copy Version 1.0 by Chris Raynak'
20 AT 18,0:PRINT 'Please put tape to be copied in drive #1 and a blank tape in drive #2.'
30 AT 19,17:PRINT 'Then press any key when ready...'
40 IF INKEY$=""THEN GO TO 140
50 CLS
60 INPUT 'Volume Name?';a$
70 CLS
80 PRINT 'Formating drive 2.'
90 FORMAT 'mdv2_'&a$
00 PRINT \ 'Opening scratch file on drive 2.'
10 OPEN_NEW #7, mdv2_scratch
20 PRINT \'Reading directory from mdv1 and writing to scratch file.'\
30 DIR #7;mdv1_
40 PRINT \ 'Closing scratch file.'
50 CLOSE #7
60 PRINT \'File Transfer begins....'
70 PRINT \'Reading data from Scratch file.'
80 OPEN_IN #7,mdv2_scratch
90 INPUT #7;a$
00 INPUT #7;b$
10 IF EOF (#7) THEN GO TO 360
20 INPUT #7;a$
30 PRINT \'Copying ';a$;' from drive 1 to 2.'
40 COPY 'mdv1_'&a$ TO 'mdv2_'&a$
50 GO TO 310
60 PRINT \'Erasing scratch file.':CLOSE #7
70 DELETE mdv2_scratch
80 PRINT\'Copy completed!  Please wait for drive 2 to stop before you remove thecartridge.'
90 INPUT #0;'More copies?';a$
00 IF a$='y' OR  a$='Y' THEN GO TO 100
10 PRINT 'Program terminated.'
```

QCOPY

by

Chris Raynak

Qcopy is a program for your QL computer that will allow yo to make back up* copies of your own software. I know tha there may be other versions of such programs available, bu since none have come to print yet, and there is a need fo one right now, I. decided to send Greg mine. There are variety of program listings here. Select the one (or ones that you like the best and type them in. They all have buil instructions so have fun!

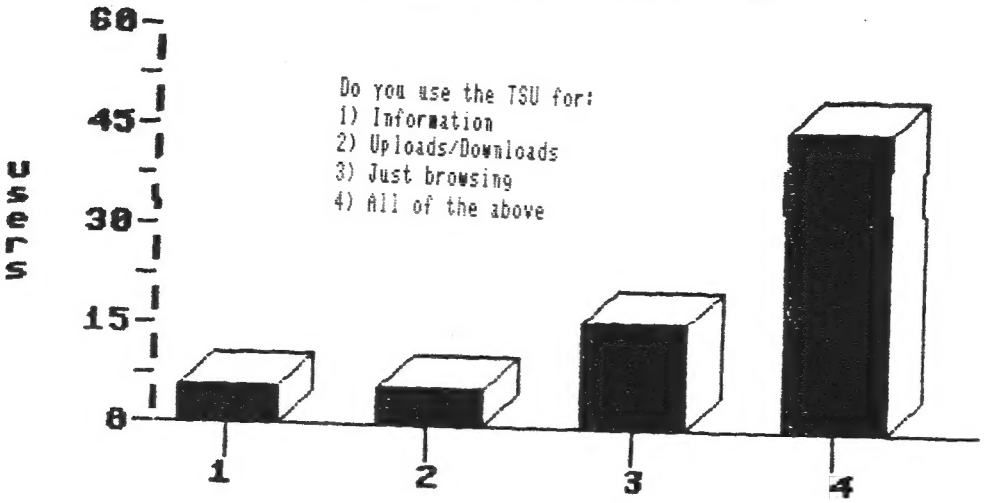
Thanks Chris!
PLEASE NOTE:
The rest of Chris's article (program listings will appear next month!

AN ONLINE SURVEY

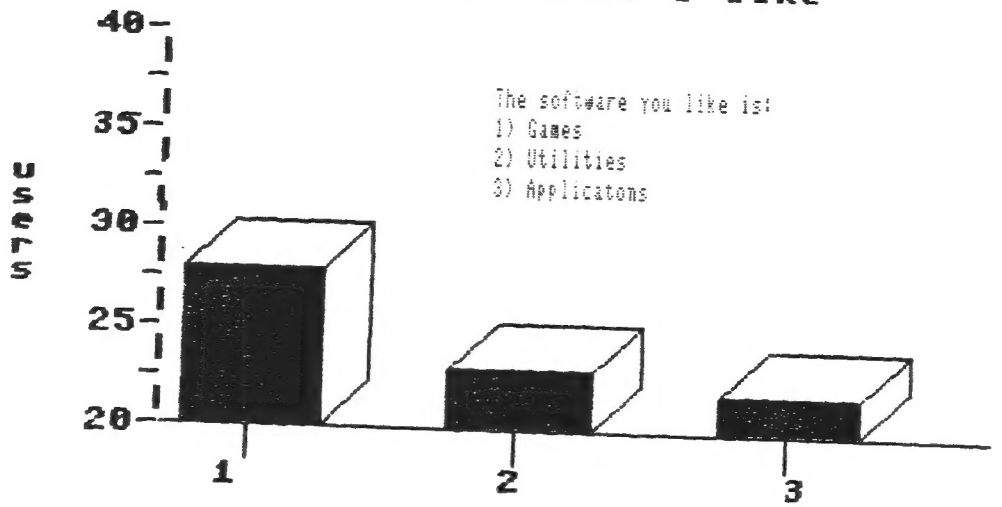
from the TSU BBS by Chris Raynak

Hello all! I have been away from the ol' keyboard long enough, and decided to finally do something constructive. This is a survey that I have been taking for the better part of a year now, and it has produced some interesting results. Granted, the survey is not long, and not limited to Timex users, but then it would not be a true survey! Here are the questions and the answer numbers. You can look at the graphs and see how it all adds up.....

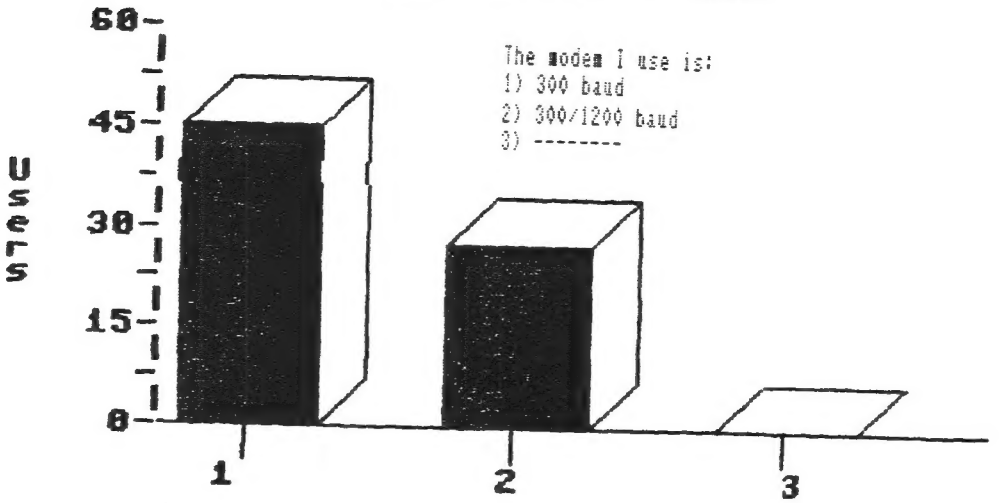
I use the TSU for



The software I like



The modem I use



March Editorial

Howdy! here we are clear into the end of March with April on the way! Where does the time fly to?! Have you set yourselves up for the Midwest T/S Computer fest? I sure hope so. I will be there! I was thinking that it would be nice if those that are going Friday night could get together that night for dinner! What do YOU think? If you like this idea, let's discuss it in April. I hope you will all be there. I know this is not possible, but I hope you make this a priority since it is a good possibility that several vendors may be getting out of the T/S line. It seems that Zebra may be one of them. I have wrote to them but they are very POOR about writting back to people!

Please note that the library tape out now is version 2.1 and has new programs on it. It is now possible to make 8 copies at the meetings. If you don't have this 2.1 tape, be sure to get it. All you need do is bring your recorder and your tape cable that you normaly use with the computer and a C-60 tape. You should also bring an AC adaptor if you need it.

Below, you find a listing for the FILE 0 for the OLIGER disk system. This is a really nice program since it uses the CATalog to get its data so you don't have to update it or worry about it not fitting back on the disk. This program just barely fits so BE SURE TO ENTER IT JUST AS YOU SEE IT! You will also note that there are a lot of token words used so if the program doesn't work, this may be your mistake. If you have a problem, give me a call..... 216-661-4105. The program was written by ROELF MULDER and modified by JOHN OLIGER. I found that the written copy that I got wouldn't run since several items in line 10 didn't use the VAL and quotes. This listing WILL WORK! JGD

```
  1 CLEAR : DIM c$(VAL "178",VA
L "20"): LET s=SGN PI: LET o=NOT
 PI: INK VAL "7": PAPER o: BORDE
R o: CLS
  10 LET q$=" STEP "+CHR$ VAL "1
0"+CHR$ o+"*K\"+CHR$ VAL "17"+CH
R$ VAL "8"+CHR$ o+CHR$ VAL "25"+
CHR$ VAL "235"+"! &"+CHR$ s+" CL
OSE #"+CHR$ VAL "13"+CHR$ VAL "2
37"+"VAL !"+CHR$ VAL "16"+"&"+CH
R$ VAL "14"+CHR$ VAL "16"+CHR$ V
AL "237"+"VAL "+CHR$ VAL "17"+CH
R$ VAL "20"+CHR$ o+")"+CHR$ VAL
"128"+"PEEK ("+CHR$ VAL "4"+CHR$
 VAL "3"+CHR$ VAL "25"+"0"+CHR$
VAL "249"+" OUT "
 100 DRAW INK s;VAL "255",o: DRA
W INK s;o,VAL "175": DRAW INK s;
VAL "-255",o: DRAW INK s;o,VAL "
-175": BEEP VAL ".1",VAL "25"
 200 LET a=(PEEK VAL "23627"+PEE
K VAL "23628"*VAL "256"+VAL "358
3"): LET c=INT (a/VAL "256"): PO
KE VAL "23549",VAL "195": POKE V
AL "23550",a-(c*VAL "256"): POKE
 VAL "23551",c: LET fi=USR VAL "
23549": LET row=s+s: LET col=VAL
 "9": LET n$=c$(VAL "178", TO VA
L "16")
 300 IF n$(LEN n$)=" " THEN LET
n$=n$( TO LEN n$-s): GO TO VAL "
300"
 320 PRINT AT o,VAL "16"-(LEN n$
/VAL "2"); OVER s; INK VAL "5";n
$;AT o,VAL "8"; OVER s;"11spaces.
          ": PAPER o
 405 LET f=s: LET c=INT ((fi/VAL
"18"): LET dif=INT (((fi/VAL "18"
-c)*VAL "18"+VAL ".4"): LET loop
=VAL "17"
 410 LET it=s: IF loop>=fi THEN
LET loop=fi: GO TO VAL "425"
 415 FOR i=s TO c: FOR m=o TO lo
op: PRINT AT row+m,10;c$(it, TO
10): LET it=it+1: NEXT m: GO SUB
 VAL "500": NEXT i: FOR i=s+s TO
 VAL "19": PRINT AT i,9;"
    ": NEXT i: IF NOT dif THEN G
O TO VAL "410"
 425 IF f THEN FOR m=o TO dif-s:
 PRINT AT row+m,10;c$(it, TO 10)
: LET it=it+1: NEXT m: IF loop>=
fi THEN LET f=o
 427 IF NOT f THEN LET it=fi+s
 430 GO SUB VAL "500": GO TO VAL
 "410"
 500 FOR L=o TO m-s: PRINT AT ro
w+l,col; INVERSE s;">": IF q$<>"
" THEN PAUSE col: LET q$="": PAU
SE col
 510 LET a$=INKEY$: IF a$="" THE
N LET q$="p": GO TO VAL "510"
 515 BEEP VAL ".02",VAL "30"
 520 IF a$=CHR$ VAL "13" THEN GO
 TO VAL "600"
 530 PRINT AT row+L,col;" ": NEX
T L: RETURN
 600 LET pos=it-m+L: LET d$=c$(p
os, TO VAL "10"): LET a=CODE c$(
pos,VAL "11"): IF NOT a THEN LOA
D /d$
 610 IF a=s THEN LOAD /d$ DATA n
()
 620 IF a=VAL "2" THEN LOAD /d$
DATA n$()
 630 IF a=INT PI THEN LOAD /d$CO
DE
 640 IF a=VAL "4" THEN LOAD /d$A
BS
 650 IF a=VAL "5" THEN LOAD /d$V
AL
```

If you would like to subscribe to the RAMTOP please fill out this form and send it to the listed address along with a check for: $15/Year or $7.50/ 6 mo. to become a member of our Group (Attend meetings, use library tapes Ect.) or: $12/Year or $6/ 6 months to receive the RAMTOP only. Please make checks payable to the RAMTOP! (The phone # is only for our records!)

****

*Please print! Enclosed: $_____ for 1 year__ / 6 months__ *

*

*NAME: _____ PHONE: _____-_____-_____ *

* We need your phone # *

*STREET: _____ for our records! *

*

*CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____ *

*

*Type of computer(s) and peripheral(s) you own: _____ *

*

*_____ *

* *THANK YOU for your interest!* Please send to: *

*Robert Parish, 12706 Leeila Ave., Cleveland, OH 44135 *

****

NORTH COAST COMPUTER FAIR

The Greater Cleveland Timex Sinclair Users Group and the Euclid Square Mall are jointly sponsoring the North Coast Computer Fair at the Mall on the weekend of October 3rd and 4th.

Area users' groups and computer clubs are being invited to take part in this Fair, at no charge. Plans are to rent space to vendors and to offer computer related prizes.

This is a great opportunity for groups to acquaint the public with their existence and to show how they can help owners of particular brands. It is also a great chance for us to show that Sinclair is alive and active.

October may not be just around the corner, but it does give all of us time to get organ ized. We need the help and ideas of our own members to show ourselves in the best light possible.

A meeting for all interested groups is to be held in the Conference Room of the Mall Office on Saturday, April 4th at 1:00 P.M. We will meet with the Mall management to start on the details of the Fair.

We ask our members who have contact with other users' groups to urge them to take part in this project and to attend this meeting.

For further information, contact:

Max Schoenfeld
Chairman,
Computer Fair
Committee
Phone 371-1096

I hope this will be out by the start of the Quaker Square Computer Fair. It will be March 21, and 22. That's in Akron.

I just want to take a moment to thank CHRIS RAYNAK and PAUL BANASIK for a very interesting presentation on the TSU BBS! I found it interesting to see several computers working together to create this BBS! Also, many thanks to CHRIS for taking the time to set it up and keep it running! If you haven't called yet, you are in for a treat! It runs fast so you don't waste a lot of time!

THE FOLLOWING FORM IS FOR THOSE WHO ARE INTERESTED IN RECEIVING A LIBRARY TAPE. YOU MUST FILL THIS OUT AND RETURN IT IF YOU WANT A TAPE MAILED TO YOU! This form is for those of you that DON'T attend the meetings. There are 2 ways to get a copy of the programs in our library: 1- Send a C-90 with your return address and $1.00 (P&H) or 2- We will send you a tape that you can keep for $3.00. (Make checks payable to The RAMTOP)

Thank You for your support of our group!

```
**********************************************************************
*                      * LIBRARY  TAPE  FORM *                       *
*                                                                    *
* NAME _____________________________  PHONE _____-_____-__________  *
*                                     phone # is REQUIRED!           *
* ADDRESS _____________________________                              *
*                                                                    *
* CITY _____________________________ STATE _______ ZIP _________    *
*                                                                    *
*                                                                    *
* TYPE OF COMPUTER YOU OWN: 1000/ZX-81 __ /1500 __ /2068 __          *
* check all that you have : QL __ OTHER _____________________        *
*                                                                    *
* Do you have a DISK system: (type)_____________________________     *
* Plese note that we request that the form be filled out as          *
* completely as possible.                                            *
**********************************************************************
```

Mail the form along with your check ($1.00 or $3.00) to:
Dean Miller (Librarian)
29324 Park St.
Wickliffe, OH, 44092

+ It would be appreciated if you
+ send us any noncopyrighted soft-
+ ware!!! (Phone- 216-944-8630)

From:
THE GREATER CLEVELAND SINCLAIR USERS GROUP
James G. DuPuy (Editor)
6514 Bradley Ave.(Down)
Parma, Ohio 44129

TO:

FIRST CLASS MAIL